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Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the development of a set of global fundamental geospatial data themes that would initially serve the needs of the sustainable development agenda.

Summary of the report

At its fourth session, held in New York from 6 to 8 August 2014, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 4/104, in which it agreed that global fundamental geospatial data themes need to be integrated and harmonized from the national to global levels and that actions should be taken in order for Member States and the international community to work jointly towards the preparation, improvement and maintenance of fundamental geospatial data themes, building on existing national and regional fundamental datasets. It acknowledged the need to explore harmonization at the global level, including by identifying strategic priorities, and invited the Bureau to consult with existing working groups as to whether that work could be integrated into their work prior to creating a separate working group.

In its report, the Regional Committee indicates that its working group on core data is investigating the definition and use of core data, also referred to as fundamental data. It describes consultations with the Bureau to consider integrating

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global fundamental geospatial data themes into the work of the working group, the progress of the working group in its efforts to fulfil its regional objectives and the proposals of the Regional Committee on how the work can be developed at the global level.

The Regional Committee considers that engagement with the other regional entities is essential to developing a harmonized set of global fundamental geospatial data themes that can address the needs of the sustainable development agenda.